

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims, in which deleted text appears ~~struck through~~ and inserted text appears underlined, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:
a plurality of microparticles, a majority of which have diameters in the range of about 1 to 10 micrometers, each of which comprises a shell enclosing a gas-filled hollow core, said shell comprising an outer layer composed of a cross-linked amphiphilic ~~material~~ protein and an inner layer composed of a biodegradable synthetic polymer; and
a sugar.
2. (Original) The composition of **claim 1** in which the sugar is sucrose.
3. (Original) The composition of **claim 1** which further comprises a surfactant.
4. (Original) The composition of **claim 3** in which the surfactant is a poloxomer.
5. (Original) The composition of **claim 1** which further comprises a water-soluble polymer.
6. (Original) The composition of **claim 5** in which the water-soluble polymer is a medium molecular weight polyethylene glycol.
7. (Original) The composition of **claim 1** in which the gas is nitrogen.
8. (Original) The composition of **claim 1** in which the biodegradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polycaprolactone, polylactide, polyglycolide, polyactide-polyglycolide copolymers, copolymers of lactides and lactones, delta-valerolactone, polyalkcyanoacrylates, polyamides, polyhydroxybutyrates, polydioxanones, poly-beta-aminoketones, polyanhydrides, poly-(ortho)esters, polyglutamic acid, polyaspartic acid and esters of polyglutamic and polyaspartic acids.

9. Canceled.

10. (Currently Amended) The composition of ~~claim 9~~ **claim 1** in which the cross-linked amphiphilic protein is a cross-linked ~~protein~~ human serum albumin.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition of **claim 1** in which the cross-linked amphiphilic ~~material~~ protein is cross-linked with glutaraldehyde.

12. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:

a plurality of microparticles, a majority of which have diameters in the range of about 1 to 10 micrometers, each of which comprises a shell enclosing a gas-filled hollow core, said shell comprising an inner layer composed of polyactide and an outer layer composed of glutaraldehyde cross-linked human serum albumin;
glycine; and
polyethylene glycol 3350.

13. (Original) The composition of **claim 12** which is in the form of a dry cake and/or powder.

14. (Original) The composition of **claim 12** which is in the form of an aqueous suspension.

15. (New) The composition of **claim 1** in which the microparticles do not contain a drug.

16. (New) The composition of **claim 12** in which the microparticles do not contain a drug.